

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 05340 291135Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 291059Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4234

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5340

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: VOA REPORTING

REF: CAIRO 5325 (USIAC)

1. REFTEL SENT TO USIA WASHINGTON BY MAY PAO, AT MY REQUEST, CENSURES VOA FOR CARRYING PAST TWO DAYS RUNNING AN INSIGNIFICANT NEWS ITEM FROM PAGE 7 OF AL AKHBAR ON THE ARREST OF A SMALL GROUP OF RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS ACCUSED OF PLOTTING A COUP FROM CAVES AT MINIA. NO OTHER CAIRO PAPER HAS CARRIED ITEM AND CONSENSUS AMONG DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES AND EGYPTIANS IS THIS IS A VERY INSIGNIFICANT AFFAIR. IT IS SINGULARLY UNHELPFUL FOR VOA TO ENGAGE IN SENSATIONALIZING THIS INSIGNIFICANT ITEM FOR TWO DAYS RUNNING AND MAKING IT OUT AS IMPORTANT WORLD NEWS JUST ON THE EVE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEETING. ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO RAP VOA KNUCKLES AND GET THEM TO STOP SUCH "YELLOW JOURNALISM" ON THE AIRWAYS WILL BE APPRECIATED.

2. I BELIEVE VOA SHOULD CARRY OBJECTIVE NEWS, BUT SOMEONE THERE MUST SHOW A LITTLE JUDGMENT IN KNOWING WHAT IS IMPORTANT AND WHAT IS NOT. SENSATIONAL ITEMS SUCH AS THIS SHOULD AT LEAST BE CHECKED OUT WITH NEA/EGY, BEFORE VOA CARRIES THEM, TO OBTAIN A READING ON THEIR IMPORTANCE AND TO GAIN SOME PERSPECTIVE.

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EILTS

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